HUMAN EVENTS

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News Section *Printed in Two Sections*

Storm Over Suez: Intelligence observers warn that American opinion is taking the Egyptian crisis all too complacently and that people generally fail to realize the earnestness with which the British and French are making war preparations. The military build-up of these nations is going on relentlessly and some observers believe it will be ready for action by about October 10 — if not for actual belligerent attack on Egypt, at least for a clear-cut showdown with Egypt's dictator.

Observers stress not only British but also French war preparations. Alerting of two French divisions, movement of French troopships in the Mediterranean, and readying of the French military machine are cited as examples of the very serious plans of Paris. The French Government, it is remarked, would hardly be spending about a quarter of a billion dollars in such preparations if it intended only pacific diplomatic maneuvers. The British are just as serious as the French, with whom they are obviously working closely.

France's interest lies less in the Suez Canal Company shares than in stopping the expanding power of Colonel Nasser in all of North Africa. Apparently the Egyptian leader has won many followers among the pan-Arab elements in the French possessions in North Africa. This, the French feel, they cannot tolerate. French Foreign Minister Pineau — according to a story believed along Washington's diplomatic row — made the above very plain to Dulles ten days ago in London and claimed that, if France lost North Africa, it would sink to the level of Switzerland as a world power.

The U.S. is keeping out of the front line and will continue to keep out, while working to bring about a peaceful solution. Our activity, it is believed, is to use our influence to keep the other Arab states, of Jordan and Syria out of the fracas. It is said that the governments of these two countries have become alarmed at the recklessness of Nasser's policy, feeling that he is going too far in challenging Britain and France at this time.

War could come in a matter of six to eight weeks, observers believe. Certainly a showdown within that time is in the cards. Nasser, it is suggested, must recognize the array of power being prepared against him. Logically, he should come to a compromise and settlement. But, it is pointed out, dictators like Nasser do not always pursue a logical course.

Chances of delaying a war crisis appear better, since Dulles' recent trip to London. The U.S. Secretary of State — according to reports around Washington — strongly urged British and French leaders not to push matters to a critical stage until after the American presidential election in November. It is believed that Dulles won such a promise.

Alger Hiss Case and Truman: Senator Karl Mundt (R., S.D.) this week called on Candidate Stevenson to repudiate a "shocking" statement by Truman about Alger Hiss, or else — "to accept the consequences of an outraged American public opinion." Truman, in a television interview on September 3 in Milwaukee, was asked if he thought Hiss was a Communist spy. Truman said "no"; he also denied that he had described Nixon's role in the 1948 subversive probe as a "red herring," replying, "No, but it was."

Mundt wants to know whether Truman is an "authoritative Stevenson spokesman," or whether he is "just loose in a China shop, swinging wildly in all directions and speaking only for Alger and himself."

The record, compiled by the HUMAN EVENTS staff, shows that Truman applied the term "red herring" to the Hiss affair *nine* times — specifi-

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cally, on August 5 and 12, September 2 and 13, and December 9 and 16, in the year 1948; on May 26, 1949; and on January 7 and February 13 in 1950.

Mundt recalled that "one of the biggest hurdles Dick Nixon and I confronted [Mundt served with Nixon on the House Un-American Activities Committee] . . . was the continuous effort of the then President Truman to pooh-pooh and play down our investigation of Hiss and the entire Communist conspiracy in Government."

Inside The South: The Southern Democratic leaders will deliver all the Southern states to Stevenson, with the possible exception of Florida — such is the estimate of Southern conservative observers. Florida has so many resident Northerners who vote Republican that the outcome in that state remains uncertain. These sources, however, believe that the delivery may encounter some trouble if, for instance, Stevenson in his desire to win Northern Negro votes should say some things disturbing to white Southern ears. Then — these circles say — such a ticket as T. Coleman Andrews (backed by For America and other groups) may head, could win "hundreds of thousands of votes in Southern states." (It is proposed that such a ticket will be on the ballot in a number of Southern states with a separate panel of presidential electors pledged to Andrews.)

Housewives' Revolt? Price rises in consumer goods over the last few months are being eagerly watched by Democrats. Food prices were at high levels in August and early September, and if the trend continues, Democrats hope for a re-enactment of the "Housewives' Revolt" which lost them the 1946 Congress — this time directed against Eisenhower. Jumps in food costs from March to September are indicated by the following increases in Washington, D. C. chain stores: bacon, from .43 to .49 a pound; eggs, from .59 to .69 a dozen; ham, from .49 to .53 a pound; bananas, from .10 to .15 a pound; ground beef, from .32 to .39 a pound; coffee, from .79 to .89 a pound.

These figures reflect price increases in such industries as hogs and cattle, signalling an upswing from the so-called "farm depression." Watching the Democrats getting ready to beat the drums about "inflation" on consumer goods, Republicans wryly comment that you can't win either way: if the farmers aren't being pushed into a "revolt," the housewives are.

ADA and Adlai: Americans for Democratic Action made it official last week by giving its wholehearted endorsement to the Stevenson-Kefauver ticket. While the endorsement was a foregone conclusion, Washington thinks that Adlai would just as soon do without it.

For ADA also gave Adlai its seal of approval in 1952, when he had as his campaign manager ADA founder Wilson Wyatt. But, in his role of practical politician, Stevenson has since tried to keep ADA at arm's length, because of its widespread unpopularity. Although ADA has claimed Adlai as an "original founder" and a "charter member," he denies both accusations. In addition, he vetoed Senator Hubert Humphrey as his running-mate this year, reportedly because Humphrey's ADA connections were too widely advertised. The recent endorsement, Republicans feel, will help remind the public that Adlai and ADA are two of a kind.

Texas: The Lone Star State of Texas, where politics are earnest and anything can happen, faces an unexpected scramble for a seat in the United States Senate. The result may be the election of an ultra-liberal in this basically-conservative state; conceivably, it could be the election of a Republican Senator for the first time since the Reconstruction Era following the Civil War.

The senatorship opens up as a result of the narrow run-off victory of conservative Senator Price Daniel. He says he will resign his legislative post in time to permit a special election to be held on general election day, November 6, to choose his Senate successor. Special elections in Texas are "free-for-alls"; no party designation or nominations are allowed and the high man wins. Ralph Yarborough, who just lost the gubernatorial race to Daniel, has announced his candidacy. He is the ADA idol and has solid union support.

One other "loyal" (to the national party) Democrat may make the Senate race in addition to Yarborough — Commissioner of Agriculture John White, who in 1952 was the only state-wide official to support Adlai Stevenson. Another possibility is James Hart, one-time Justice of the state Supreme Court who used to be a conservative but more

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recently has been making "liberal" speeches. Either or both might take some votes from Yarborough.

Four conservative Democrats are regarded as likely entrants: Representative Martin Dies, first Chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee, who retired from politics for several years but in 1954 came back to win election as Congressman-At-Large; John Ben Shepperd, outgoing Attorney General and staunch backer of conservative Governor Allan Shivers; Dwight Morrow, former Democratic National Committeeman who ultimately was ousted from that post because of his 1952 support for the Eisenhower ticket; and Houston's state Senator Searcy Bracewell, another Eisenhower supporter.

The probability of several Democratic entrants encourages Republicans to think their entrant has a chance to win. Thad Hutcheson of Houston is expected to get the GOP party endorsement next week.

Net result is a scramble such as rarely can be produced anywhere except in Texas.

Maryland Splits: Both parties in Maryland face serious splits as they prepare for the November election in which the seat of GOP Senator John Marshall Butler is at stake.

In the Republican party, conservative Butler heads one GOP faction; Governor McKeldin — who received ADA endorsement in 1954 — heads the other and has been sniping at Butler ever since both were elected to their present positions in 1950. The internal feud was brought into the open last week by Mrs. Francis J. L. Kline, GOP leader in Hagerstown, Maryland, and chairman of the women's division of the Maryland Federation of Republicans. She accuses Governor McKeldin of having "deprived the people of this state of the two-party system."

She calls attention to the fact that McKeldin, in delivering a Baltimore speech two weeks ago, omitted a part of the prepared text distributed in advance to newsmen which criticized the Democratic Senatorial nominee, George P. Mahoney. Mrs. Kline says the omission was because of the Governor's close affiliation with some Democrats.

"It is noted," says Mrs. Kline, "that William Adelson, the law partner of McKeldin and a staunch Democrat, supported Mr. Mahoney in the primary and is still throwing his weight behind him for this election."

Adelson is an intimate of many Democratic leaders in Baltimore and was a member of the state's delegation to the recent Democratic National Convention. Russell Turner, a frequent contributor to HUMAN EVENTS, in an article about McKeldin in the August issue of *American Mercury* magazine, reports that in talking with Marylanders, "unanimously, the opinion was that Adelson is the man to see, as he is a familiar figure in the Governor's mansion at Annapolis, making himself thoroughly at home during his frequent visits."

Actually, there never has been any expectation that McKeldin would support Butler's re-election bid with any great enthusiasm.

The Democrats nominated Mahoney for the Senate race after former Senator Millard Tydings withdrew because of ill health. Offering Mrs. Tydings as a replacement for her husband, the Tydings faction at the recent convention made a bitter attack upon Mahoney. Said Kent County State's Attorney Raisin: "Mahoney is one of certain parties willing to wreck the Democratic party for selfish personal gain!" Stuart Bushong told the convention "the Mahoney steamroller tactics are beyond the pale of repair in the party." Meyer Kaplan of Baltimore charged: "Since Mahoney entered politics, this party has had no unity — and no victories."

Now the two factions are quarrelling over disposition of $42,000 left from a $100-a-plate fund-raising dinner last winter: Mahoney wants to use it for regular state campaign purposes, the "Old Guard" which supported Tydings says it should be turned over to the Democratic National Committee as payment toward a $50,000 campaign assessment levied on Maryland by the Committee.

Reuther and Reporters: A continuous source of amazement to television audiences — often expressed in letters to HUMAN EVENTS — is the unwillingness of the Washington press to ask embarrasing questions on TV-panel programs of labor leaders.

Latest example occurred during appearance of Walter Reuther on CBS' "Face the Nation."

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Reuther mentioned the standards set by the AFL-CIO in appraising the voting records of members of Congress. One of the requirements he laid down was a vote in favor of rigid farm supports. Purpose of the bill was to raise the food bills of consumers — including all union members.

Not one of the three reporters on the quiz asked Reuther why union members should support such a program. Nor did anyone of them suggest that the obvious reason why Reuther would favor it is because he is willing to sacrifice the interests of his membership (whom he apparently considers too dumb to see the conflict of interest) in order to be a Kingmaker.

Reuther and Kohler: Walter Reuther's attempt to break the Kohler Co. of Kohler, Wisconsin, moves into its twenty-ninth month, still a deadlock. Two years of mass picketing and violence left Kohler in business, and Reuther is now trying to strangle the company's sales with a national boycott. The UAW states that the boycott is a success, and that Kohler sales have been reduced by 37 per cent — a statement denied by Kohler. The union failed in its crucial bid: the August convention of the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters resisted UAW prodding to adopt the boycott against Kohler plumbing fixtures as its own policy. Reason: an anti-Kohler resolution would have run the plumbers afoul of the Taft-Hartley Act.

Aid To India: The United States last week announced that it had concluded a deal with India, whereby $360 million worth of our surplus agricultural stocks would be "sold" to Nehru's government. The "sale" was hedged about with provisions which actually made it a gift, but the most important aspect of the deal was this: the surplus stocks, auctioned to India for $360 million, had cost the American taxpayers $652 million in payments to farmers.

This gift, which brings total American aid to India to over a billion dollars, was in response to former Ambassador John Sherman Cooper's repeated request that we help Nehru build a "democracy" in India. The day following the conclusion of the aid agreement, India announced the passage of a new law, placing the country's newspapers under control of the government.

Willoughby: MacArthur's old intelligence aide in a speech in Washington called for revision of the propaganda estimate of Germany's war-making role. General C. A. Willoughby told the Steuben Society in convention here that "the most casual survey" denies the propaganda myth of Imperial Germany as a "war-making monster." He asserted that the present complicated troubles of the U.S. could be directly traced to our intervention in World War I against the Kaiser's Germany.

Willoughby additionally provided fuel for anti-Communist probers when he accused former Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes (under Roosevelt and Truman) of defending a Soviet spy. Ickes defended Agnes Smedley, well known as a Communist figure in international circles for many years. Willoughby said she was part of the Communist spy ring in the Far East and criticized the Defense Department for failure to clear up the real story of this Sorge Communist spy ring with its tentacles reaching into America. Despite these criticisms, Willoughby wound up by stressing that one great qualification of Americans is their conscience, "their ultimate integrity that survived two decades of brain washing, to demand a re-examination of historical facts in the interest of truth."

Letter from JOHN BEN SHEPPERD, The Attorney General of Texas: "HUMAN EVENTS serves as a pillar of freedom to American individuality, courageously defies oppression, and exemplifies good, informative reasoning in the highest sense. I am an enthusiastic reader of it."

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Article Section

Your Congressman is home now campaigning for votes. See him. Ask your friends to see him. Ask him how he stands on the issues raised in Riesel's article. If you think well of him, support him financially. Even more important, get out the vote for him.

MY WAR WITH THE MOB

By VICTOR RIESEL

I HAVE BEEN BLINDED by a thug who stalked for a moment out of the underworld shadows — but I can still see more clearly than those who so glandularly champion labor that they denounce automatically all crusades against the mob inside labor.

It is these decent but over-zealous defenders of labor who are blind. It is they who identify all labor with the mob. It is the public crusader who carefully etches the sharp line between the underworld invaders and the honest union leaders.

What the disturbed champions of labor don't see is the danger of their outcries. Unwittingly these men become, in effect, the secret weapon of the mob. By blasting all outside forces which fight the labor underworld, they frighten off public officials, Senators, Congressmen and even Governors in some states. For no ambitious political figure is willing to jeopardize his career by pushing for an investigation only to find himself later smeared as "anti-labor."

Just look at the record of state and Federal probes. I charge that at least four major Congressional investigations have been dropped like hot coals because of political pressure. I have been told by investigators that they had been directed not to get too tough or bring in evidence which would force indictments.

Look at this Congress. How many probes into any cobwebbed corner of the underworld has it launched?

Why, after Illinois Senator Paul Douglas found a score of union officials using welfare and pension funds as "their own money," was his investigation permitted to die? It had one of America's top investigators, Frank Plant, a former FBI agent. Its chief counsel, Paul Cotter, was raring to dig deeper. They turned out a searing 365-page indictment of the crime cartel inside labor. The AFL-CIO executive council went through it. AFL-CIO chief George Meany sent it on to the Ethical Practices Committee for action.

Yet nowhere in the Government was there $100,000 to keep the Douglas committee alive. Why?

THERE MUST BE Congressional probes. Otherwise the ball falls between two outfielders. The Government finds that it can't handle clever criminals on any charge except income tax evasion. So some of the worst hoods get away with sentences as short as eight months on tax raps. There just are no laws to deal with the subtleties of the crime cartel and to jug men like Frankie Costello.

Little can be unraveled in the courts — because unlike the old Capone muscle days and the bloody gun and ice pick wars of Lepke and Gurrah, all this is legal. It may be unethical, immoral and contrary to the quasi-public trust a labor official should pledge himself to when he goes to work for the proletariat, but it is legal — and

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the boys do love the aura of respectability with which it cloaks them.

The key word among today's mobsters is "respectability" — the standing they've gained in their communities while they operate their criminal cartel behind the scenes. Their dominating fear is neither the police nor the the Federal investigators nor even the Internal Revenue Service.

They fear most the spotlight of exposure in the press which goes into their communities, their homes and among their families and neighbors.

They hate me — and the sentiment is mutual — because this is the one powerful weapon I've been able to use in this fight. That's why they hate the press, snarl at its representatives and try to stay out of the limelight by closing the doors of their meetings and excluding reporters.

To amass their fortunes in cash, real estate and other investments, they've used the power of the unions they've seized — often in the same business fields in which they operate. They have become businessmen's "partners" by simply threatening to withhold workers from employers whose projects were racing for deadlines set by contracts with the Federal Government, big cities and private concerns.

LET'S STEP PAST the men whose notoriety has hit the press so regularly. They're as familiar to the public as Marilyn Monroe's curves.

Let's look at some current incidents cut from the same old pattern.

Let's consider the gimmick used by one George J. Walters, former president of the Pittsburgh Building Trades Council and an official of a Bricklayers local there. So prominent a citizen was Walters that he served as chairman of the Pittsburgh Housing Authority and a member of the Steel City's Board of Education.

Brother Walters, who went to jail, had connections with pipe and building supply firms. If you wanted skilled bricklayers for your construction job, you had to buy blocks from the company which paid him part of its profits. During his trial, it was shown that in two instances he picked up $13,000 and later $14,000. Walters was jailed for 15 months and fined $5,000 for failure to report $35,099 in income which he got on the side, from building contractors, over a five-year period.

Just a few weeks ago, two bricklayer officials in Pennsylvania were indicted by a Scranton Grand Jury on charges of demanding $4,200 before they unloaded bricks for a contractor building a Signal Corps Depot.

I report these two incidents out of hundreds of others because they are typical of the disrespect for decency displayed by this crowd. Walters, trusted by his neighbors, gave all labor a black eye by forcing money out of businessmen although he was labor's representative on important municipal bodies. The Scranton men are penny-ante operators, but this case shows that not even vital Government projects are immune from shakedowns.

But the pressure by some union officials on contractors, building swiftly-needed Federal projects, doesn't always come from the penny-ante crowd. There is a hulking fellow now slimming down in the Federal pen for another decade or so because he tried, among other inspirations, to extort a million dollars from the Ebasco Corp., then building tremendous power projects for our atomic and thermonuclear defense program. This shakedown artist is one Evan Dale, chief of the Hod Carriers and Common Laborers in East St. Louis.

Not quite as imaginative as the pirate in the atomic fields was a set of crooks who were lifted out of the St. Louis Construc-

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tion Trades unions by a Federal Grand Jury. There it was shown that businessmen who wanted to bid on Government contracts first consulted certain union officials. The contractors had to find out exactly how much the union men's shakedown would be before the bid was put in — otherwise that cost could run as much as $200,000 on a project. This could easily be the difference between profit and bankruptcy.

In fact it was that margin for one heating contractor who dared to bid on Government work without the union bosses' permission. This contractor was forced out of business and another firm, in which the labor leaders had a financial interest, was able somehow to get the choice contracts without difficulty.

In St. Louis, there were such specialists in extortion as Larry Callanan and Paul Hulahan. The first was the boss of the Steam Fitters Local and he wielded terrific political power. The latter was known as the "heavy-fisted" business agent of a Hod Carriers local. Their price was a mere $50,000 each to permit two projects to get underway.

The judge, in sentencing Hulahan to 12 years for violation of the Federal anti-racketeering laws, summed it up for all areas plagued by racketeers and extortionists when he said: "You are a menace to this community and the people will sleep better with you away."

These are but a few of hundreds of such cases. Attorney General Herbert Brownell's Justice Department reports that since it began prosecutions, right after the inauguration in 1953, on to March 31, 1956, 102 convictions on racket charges were secured. All were labor people.

Scores more were indicted but were able to slip through the loopholes of the law. A corny phrase indeed, but through these loopholes pass some of the toughest officials, right across the threshhold to "respectability."

THERE IS A belief across the land that racketeers are restricted solely to the trucking and garment industries and the waterfront. Time has come to go further inland where a handful of goons have run simply-worded union charters into immense personal fortunes because those charters gave them the right to assign workers to mass projects.

Once the mobsters, such as Evan Dale, have the power to hand out jobs, they control the lives of tens of thousands of men who swarm in on such construction projects as the Joppa power works. Control of so many workers gives the Evan Dales the influence needed to set up bars, bawdy houses and gambling joints — and the power to order men to patronize their joints. The muscle men see to it that no one gets out of line and patronizes competitors.

The "take" is enormous.

When you travel inland, away from the much-biographed Eastern rackets, you run into such brazen techniques as union officials charging a nickel a foot to provide labor for digging trenches and laying pipes. There is another group of goons which forced contractors to pay five cents a square foot for permission to excavate land.

An Operating Engineers Union leader forced building contractors to pay eight dollars each time they dug a cellar under a new home — and there were some 40,000 homes put up in this particular area.

Contractors in Missouri were forced to pay "rent" for non-existent equipment supposedly furnished by certain union leaders or companies controlled by them. In some cases the companies were as non-existent as the equipment. If a contractor wanted a

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receipt for his pay-off, the union leaders obliged with fictitious invoices.

In one case, a legitimate concern was forced by a union official to set up a company for the labor leader to use as a cover-up for his extortion racket. The legitimate firm was threatened with financial loss if it didn't go along.

Not even food escapes the rackets. Other extortionists operating as union officials charge businessmen in the poultry field two cents a pound for the right to buy and sell chickens.

On Long Island, members of the Operating Engineers have had to buy up to $20 worth of liquor a month from the bar owned by union owner William de Konig, Sr. No drinks, no jobs. De Konig was finally jailed for extorting hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Union officials have taken out bank loans and job seekers have had to pay the installments in cash before they got on the job list. Employers — and members — have been forced to donate heavily for testimonial "gifts" for union officials — sometimes totalling up to $50,000.

Thousands of skilled workers have had to go out to the suburban estates of their union chiefs to contribute off-hour and week-end work building annexes, repairing homes, putting up stables for thoroughbreds (horses, not union chiefs) and waiting personally on the big boss — if they wanted to work the next week.

Literally millions of workers went through the war breaking their backs at high speed skilled work to turn out weapons for our country — and yet were never permitted real rights in the union to which they paid dues. These were, and still are, known as permit men. They paid upward of a dollar a day to get a card. Even today, there are hundreds of thousands of Class B union members who pay dues but can't vote or sit in on meetings or even address their union officials.

In a score of communities, these union officials are powerful in the local political organizations. Why not? They always have cash ready for quick donations to needy candidates. So they buy political protection. They move among mayors, police officials, judges, prosecutors, playboys seeking thrills and others who think them fascinating.

This terror rides high today — right across the land. These are no petty rackets. They bring the mob upwards of a billion dollars — a figure I get just by totalling data put together by various investigating committees.

It becomes tougher to find and expose the mob. And still tougher to elude their respectable friends who are always saying: "Why pick on those poor persecuted labor men?" — some of whom are their own suburban neighbors by night and move with the toughest criminals by day.

What these racketeers fear most is the spotlight of publicity many clergymen, anti-crime committees and I have combined to turn on them in the public prints.

It is bitter to realize that all the glare into the snakepit did not move the public. Nor is it entirely pleasant to take stock and realize that it had to take the blinding of a newsman finally to stir the nation into action.

Additional copies of this 4-page Article: single copy 20¢ (coins, not stamps); 10 copies $1; 25 copies $2; 100 copies $5; 500 copies $20; 1,000 copies $30. In 5,000 lots $25 per thousand.

Victor Riesel, distinguished labor columnist, writes for 175 daily newspapers.

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